

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/777,294

Applicant(s)

ENOMOTO, HIROMICHI

Examiner

Sheela C. Chawan

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8/30/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-16 and 18.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 5/29/07
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 6/7/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment filed on 8/3/07 has been entered.

In response to Amendment rejection for 35 U.S.C. 101 of Claim 19 and 20 has been withdrawn.

Claims 1, 17 and 20 are canceled.

Claims 2-16 and 18 are pending in the application.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed on 8/3/07 have been fully considered and are persuasive see remarks on page 8, with respect to claims 1,2,17 and 19 under 102(e) rejection are withdrawn and all the pending claims 2-16 and 18 are allowed.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 6/7/04, the examiner has considered.

Drawings

4. The Examiner has approved drawings filed on 2/12/04.

Reasons For Allowance

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 2-16 and 18 are allowed and Renumbered as 1-17.

As pointed out by the applicant in the remark, on page 8, filed on 8/3/07 with respect to claims 2-16 and 18 have been fully considered and as a result amended claim 3 now indicated allowable, as they include allowable subject matter of the

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objected claims 3-12 and 18 (as pointed out in the last office action, 5/31/07). Claims 2-16 and 18 have been withdrawn from the rejection and are allowed. Non of the prior art on record teaches or fairly suggests, "wherein, when determining that said personal image is included in said image in said determining step, said oriented direction of said image is recognized, based on a background- feature quantity obtained by comparing a feature quantity, extracted from an image area included in said image, with another feature quantity, extracted from another image area included in said image in addition to at least one of said element-feature quantities", as commonly included in each of the independent claim 3, 6, 12, 18, 19 , the prior art of record fails to teach either singularly or in combination, fails to anticipate or render the above limitations obvious.

Regarding claim 13, the same limitations as set forth in claim 3 are contained as an independent claim 13 (refer to claim 3 for common features) except for step of claim 13, recites a method for processing an image to be displayed as a single screen image, said image being one of a plurality of images, which have partial images relating to each other among said plurality of images, comprising the steps of: "acquiring background-feature quantities by comparing feature quantities extracted from image areas included in said partial images with other feature quantities extracted from another image areas included in said partial images; recognizing an oriented direction of said image, based on at least one of said element-feature quantities and/or at least one of said background-feature quantities", as specified in the independent claim 13. Non of the prior art on record fails to teach either singularly or in combination, fails to anticipate or render the above limitations obvious.

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6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted on later than the payment of the issue fee and to avoid processing delays should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled, comments on statement of reasons for allowance.

Contact Information

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sheela C Chawan whose telephone number is. 571-272-7446. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 7.30 - 6.00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eileen Lillis can be reached on 571-272-6928. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Sheela Chawan
Patent Examiner
Group Art Unit 2624
October 23, 2007

Sheela Chawan
SHEELA CHAWAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER